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ACTIVITIES OF USSR SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITIONS, AS OF NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 1952

WIDE RANGE OF EXPEDITIONS PLANNED -- Petrozavodsk, Leninskoye Znamya, 19 Dec 52

During the coming year, scientists of the State University will conduct 18 scientific expeditions and excursions within the Karelo-Finnish SSR. The purposes of the expeditions were approved at the last meeting of the academic council of the university.

A group of scientific associates and students headed by Professor A. Ya. Kokin, Doctor of Biological Sciences, will continue work on the introduction of branchy wheat in kolkhoz production. Another group of scientists has set itself the task of finding a more effective supplemental fertilization for crops. Workers of the Nizov'ye Kolkhoz of Prionezhskiy Rayon will take part in this work.

Together with the Karelo-Finnish Affiliate of the Academy of Sciences USSR, scientists of the university will take part in a large, complex expedition in Olonetskiy, Pryazhinskiy, Sucyarvskiy, and Petrovskiy rayons to study the possibilities of economic utilization of peat bogs.

A group of scientists headed by Professor I. F. Pravdin will conduct an ichthyological and hydrological study of Svyat Lake and other lakes in the southern Karelo-Finnish SSR. Candidates and students of the faculty of biology, under the direction of Professor Ye. A. Veselov, will investigate the physiological problems connected with the artificial cultivation of varieties of salmon under conditions prevailing in the Karelo-Finnish SSR, especially questions connected with the survival of lichinka /fish in the larval stage of development/ and fish fry.

Students of the university will take part in the work of the expeditions.

COLLECT RARE MEDICINAL PLANTS -- Alma-Ata, Kazakhstanskaya Pravda, 21 Dec 52

The expedition of the All-Union Scientific Research Chemicopharmaceutical Institute spent more than 5 months in the Kazakh SSR. P. S. Massagetov, its leader and head of the Chemical-Botanical Laboratory, has studied the rich flora

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of the Kazakh SSR for almost 30 years. The expedition visited Yuzhno-Kazakhstanskaya, Alma-Atinskaya, Taldy-Kurganskaya, Semipalatinskaya, and Vostochno-Kazakhstanskaya oblasts, traveling more than 14,000 kilometers.

More than 40 types of still uninvestigated medicinal plants, used as popular remedies for the treatment of different diseases, were collected. The expedition, for example, directed its attention to the broad-leaved garlic plant (Allium ursinum) which grows in the Altay, and according to the local inhabitants is successfully used in the treatment of hypertonia. Fizokhlen plants, extremely rich in alkaloids, have been discovered in the Semirech'ye region. Interesting medicinal plants were also collected along the upper course of the Irtysh River. All the plants collected will be carefully studied at the institute.

WORK TO GUARD HEALTH OF CANAL BUILDERS -- Ashkhabad, Turkmenskaya Iskra, 21 Nov 52

A joint expedition of the Institute of Malaria, Medical Parasitology, and Helminthology, Ministry of Health USSR, and the Scientific Research Institute of Malaria and Medical Parasitology Turkmen SSR has returned to Ashkhabad from the route of the Main Turkmen Canal.

Expedition members have done important work connected with the medical examination of canal builders in Nebit Dag, Kazandzhik, and Krasnovodsk, and they have organized consultations on the newest methods of diagnosis, prevention, and cure of parasitic diseases.

On the basis of their investigations, detailed methods will be worked out for the prevention of disease among construction workers of the Main Turkmen Canal. The members of the expedition gave many reports and lectures on medical subjects.

I. Ye. Chalaya, leader of the expedition and Senior Scientific Associate of the Institute of Malaria, Medical Parasitology, and Helminthology, Ministry of Health USSR, gave a report on the results of the expedition's work at the scientific conference held recently.

SEEK FRESH WATER ALONG CANAL ROUTE -- Ashkhabad, Turkmenskaya Iskra, 2 Dec 52

The Southern Geological Expedition is conducting its work on a large scale. The geologists have uncovered numerous sources of drinking water on the route from Kurtysh-Baba to Danaga, and also in the populated points along the Main Turkmen Canal, which they have placed at the disposal of the canal construction workers. By the end of this year, the rate of water consumption will have increased several times, as compared with past years. Spring water has been found in several localities. The geologists have mapped an extensive area of the Kara Kum Desert to indicate sources of fresh water.

STUDY RUNOFF WATER AS WATER SUPPLY SOURCE -- Ashkhabad, Turkmenskaya Iskra, 13 Dec 52

A considerable portion of the Kara Kum Desert is free from sand. When rain falls in such areas, water is not absorbed by the ground but collects in large pools in clayey areas called takyry. The water flows down the slopes, collects in these pools in the beds of old ravines, and rolls down with gathering strength in a muddy and rapid current, which stops soon after the end of the rain.

This runoff water after a rain may be an important source of water supply for the construction of the Main Turkmen Canal. To study the surface flow of rain water, the Administration of Hydrometeorological Service Turkmen SSR has established the Western Turkmen Rate-of-Water-Flow Measurement Station in the southwestern portion of the Kara Kum Desert, in the foothills of the Kopet-Dag Range. Three prefabricated huts, where members of the station live and work, have been set up as the base of the station. Under the leadership of M. Bayushev, meteorologists N. Bobrovskiy, N. Stulova, Yu. Nesterenko, and A. Shekhovtseva conduct meteorological observations around the clock. Several times a day, the station makes weather reports to Ashkhabad.

The workers of the station observe the evaporation of water that collects after rain, and the moisture of the soil at different depths. The results of these observations will be utilized in the construction of the canal and the reclamation of land in the zone to be irrigated and supplied with water. Agrometeorological observations are also being conducted here. Special instruments and devices to measure precipitation and water flow have been installed in ravines and pools near the station. Technical hydrologists V. Vlasenko, N. Ugol'nikov, A. Yeremin, I. Oladkin, G. Nemchenko, and others are assigned to this work.

Methodical direction of the hydrological work at the station is carried out by the State Order of Labor Red Banner Hydrological Institute. Every year during the precipitation season, it sends out from Leningrad an expedition to observe the greatest possible amount of territory.

DISCOVER CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS FOR CANAL -- Vil'nyus, Sovetskaya Litva, 26 Nov 52

The Kara-Kalpakskaya Geological Detachment is conducting drilling work in the Sultan-Uiz-Dag Mountains.

Geologists and drillers have successfully fulfilled their task of extensive prospecting for mineral resources. The detachment has completed the 1952 plan on time. Since the beginning of the year, many valuable raw materials have been discovered, including construction materials necessary for the construction of the Main Turkmen Canal.

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